

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, the saccharide or sugar alcohol is exemplified as those supported by Examples, i.e., D-mannitol (Examples 1-8), lactose (Example 8), trehalose (Examples 9 and 10), erythritol (Examples 11 and 14), xylitol (Example 12), maltitol (Example 13) and sorbitol (Example 15).

There is also submitted herewith a Rule 132 Declaration of the inventor, Mr. Ohkouchi. The Declaration sets forth experimental data demonstrating the criticality of the mean particle diameter of the sugar alcohols.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinct and not obvious over the cited reference.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuhiro OHKOUCHI et al.

By: Warren Cheek  
Warren M. Cheek, Jr.  
Registration No. 33,367  
Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
September 19, 2006